

CLAIMS

1. An elongated magnetic sensor comprising magnetoresistive devices arranged in the longitudinal direction thereof, each including a magnetosensitive part having magnetosensitive elements arranged at intervals in the longitudinal direction and connection conductors connecting the magnetosensitive elements in series,

wherein the intervals between the magnetosensitive elements disposed at the opposite ends of the adjacent magnetoresistive devices in the longitudinal direction are smaller than or equal to the intervals between the adjacent magnetosensitive elements within each of the magnetoresistive devices in the longitudinal direction.

2. The elongated magnetic sensor according to Claim 1, wherein the intervals between the magnetosensitive elements disposed at the opposite ends of the adjacent magnetoresistive devices in the longitudinal direction are substantially equal to the intervals between the adjacent magnetosensitive elements within each of the magnetoresistive devices in the longitudinal direction.

3. The elongated magnetic sensor according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the magnetosensitive part includes first and second magnetosensitive element arrays arranged perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction; and

the magnetosensitive elements are arranged such that the positions of the magnetosensitive elements of the first magnetosensitive element array in the longitudinal direction, when viewed in the lateral direction, differ from those of the magnetosensitive elements of the second magnetosensitive element array in the longitudinal direction.

4. The elongated magnetic sensor according to Claims 1 to 3, wherein the connection conductors are not formed at the ends of the magnetoresistive devices in the longitudinal direction.